



MINUTES

SUNNYVALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION October 21, 2013

The Sustainability Commission met in regular session in the West Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. with Chair Harrison presiding.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commission Members Present:

Commission Chair Sue Harrison
Commissioner Barbara Fukumoto
Commissioner Bruce Paton
Commissioner Gerry Glaser
Commissioner Dan Hafeman (7:03)
Commissioner Petya Kisyova
Commission Vice Chair Amit Srivastava

Council Liaison: Councilmember David Whittum (Absent)

Staff Present: John Stufflebean, Environmental Services Director
Kent Steffens, Director of Public Works
Melody Tovar, Regulatory Programs Division Manager
Manuel Pineda, Assistant Director of Public Works/City Engineer
Elaine Marshall, Environmental Programs Manager
Patricia Lord, Senior Administrative Analyst
Dustin Clark, Sustainability Coordinator

Guest: Don Bray, Joint Venture Silicon Valley
Mort Cohen, Joint Venture Silicon Valley

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public announcements.

Don Bray with Joint Venture Silicon Valley introduced Mort Cohen and himself. Mr. Bray and Mr. Cohen were part of the Joint Venture team that developed the Community Solar Feasibility Analysis report for the Community Solar RTC on the agenda for the evening.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A. Approval of the draft minutes of Sustainability Commission meeting of August 19, 2013.

Commissioner Glaser moved and Commissioner Hafeman seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting of August 19, 2013 with minor edits.

VOTE: 6-0-1 (Motion carries; Commissioner Srivastava abstained)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public announcements.

There were no public comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Possible Action: Community Solar Array and Community Volume-Buying Program (Study Issues DPW 13-11, ESD 12-04)

Staff presented a draft Report to Council regarding study issues DPW 13-11 Community Solar Array and ESD 12-04 Community Volume Buying for the Commission's review and comments. Staff's presentation summarized the findings and staff recommendation of the Community Solar Feasibility Analysis report developed by Joint Venture Silicon Valley and staff's findings and recommendation regarding a Community Volume-Buying Program for Sunnyvale residents.

Commissioners had a lengthy discussion about the report and staff recommendation.

DPW 13-11 Community Solar Array

Commissioner Fukumoto commented that due to the current regulatory environment highlighted in the staff report it doesn't seem to be the right time to move forward on community solar, but rather to continue to monitor the regulatory environment for future potential.

Commissioner Glaser commented that the reason for community solar was to help those community members who could not take advantage of solar technology. Those community members can now participate in green power through SB 43.

Commissioner Hafeman commented that the City should not be trying to focus on generating power, rather trying to encourage community members to sign up for green power because there are many places in the state much better suited to producing solar power. Commissioner Hafeman commented that the real objective is to get people to use green energy. Commissioner Hafeman supports the motion and hopes that Council will approve staff's recommendation because SB 43 opens a new door for allowing people, who could not otherwise, access green power which is what the goal really is.

ESD Community Volume-Buying Program

Commissioner Fukumoto commented that she was excited by the opportunity provided by the American Solar Transformation Initiative's Solar Roadmap. Commissioner Fukumoto commented that it is a comprehensive, systematic approach which Sunnyvale is known for and that the Solar Roadmap seems to be the logical first step for the City to take.

Commissioner Kisyova commented that the Solar Roadmap seems like a fantastic idea.

Commissioner Harrison made a motion with regard to DPW 13-11 to support the staff recommendation, alternative one, and to set aside funding for the purpose of encouraging participation by community members limited in their ability to utilize solar to best leverage the provisions of SB 43. Commissioner Glaser seconded the motion.

VOTE: 6-0-1 (Motion carried; Commissioner Kisyova abstained)

Commissioner Fukumoto made a motion with regard to ESD 12-04 to support the staff recommendation, alternative two, and explore opportunities that can benefit consumers limited in their ability to access solar. Commissioner Kisyova seconded the motion.

VOTE: 7-0 (Vote was unanimous)

2. Discussion and Possible Action: Annual Review of the Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials

Commissioner Glaser commented that he would like section A. 2 (4) and (5) of the code of ethics and conduct amended to provide permission for Council and Board and Commission members to talk directly to staff (i.e., department directors) regarding requests or inquiries rather than going through the City Manager.

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

3. Discussion and Possible Action: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: Climate Change Assessment Report 2013

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

No action was taken.

4. Discussion and Possible Action: Community Condition Indicators

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Oral Comments

Commissioner Fukumoto reported participating in a webinar on the Georgetown University Energy Prize. Commissioner Fukumoto requested it be a topic of discussion on the next agenda.

Commissioner Srivastava commented that the National Community Choice Aggregation meeting will be held in Chicago.

Commissioner Harrison reported hosting a tour of the Lawrence Station area.

Commissioner Harrison reported she recently was recertified as a Green Business through the County's Green Business Program.

Staff Comments

Sustainability Coordinator Clark commented that the City submitted a grant application for the World Wildlife Fund Earth Hour Challenge Climate Leader Award to help support the City's ability to study Community Choice Aggregation.

Sustainability Coordinator Clark commented that the City submitted a letter of support for Santa Clara County's Strategic Growth Council Urban Greening Planning grant proposal.

Sustainability Coordinator Clark commented the Silicon Valley Water Conservation Awards is accepting nominees in the categories of government agency/water utility, business, organization, greenscape management, education and water champion.

Sustainability Coordinator Clark provided the Commission a brief description of the Santa Clara County Lead Silicon Valley 2.0 adaptation planning effort the City is participating in.

Environmental Services Director Stufflebean provided the Commission an update on the Water Pollution Control Plant Master Plan and considerations the City will contemplate regarding the impact of nutrient limits on the master planning process and continuing discussions with the Santa Clara Valley Water District with regard to recycled water.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dustin Clark, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

Reviewed by: John Stufflebean, Director of Environmental Services
Melody Tovar, Regulatory Programs Division Manager